

Rural Tourism

1. Trijugi Narayan, Distt. Rudraprayag

A list of projects sanctioned in Uttarakhand during the year 2006-07 is enclosed as Statement (See below).

Statement

Statement showing projects sanctioned to the State of Uttarakhand during the year 2006-07

		(Rs. in lakh)
Sl. No.	Name of Project/Scheme	Amount sanctioned
1.	IT in the State Tourism Department	50.00
2.	Pumagiri Fair, 2007	05.00
3.	Virasat International Heritage and Folk Life Festival, 2006	10.00
4.	Development of Yamunotri Dham	448.99
5.	Garhwal Mahotsav-2006	10.00
6.	Kumaon Mahotsav-2006	5.00
TOTAL:		528.99

Setting up of National Tourism Development Board

†1454. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have already considered the proposal for setting up of a National Tourism Development Board for the integrated development of tourism;

(b) if so, whether Central Government have held consultation with the State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[5 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) the progress made with regard to action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The issue of setting up of a National Tourism Promotion Board was examined in detail by the consultation with the trade and industry associations. Taking all factors into consideration, it was felt that there is no balance of convenience in favour a constituting a "Board" for almost the same task which the Ministry is doing at present. As such, the proposal of setting up of a National Tourism Development Board has been dropped.

Decline in inflow of foreign tourists

†1455. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of foreign tourists have come down drastically as a result of Malegaon explosions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of decline in the number of tourists during the last six months particularly after explosions?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The foreign tourist arrivals to India during January to October, 2006 are estimated at 34.10 lakh, up from 30.15 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year, showing a growth of 13.1% during the last six months, *i.e.* May-October, 2006, the foreign tourist arrivals are estimated at 18.58 lakh, up from 16.59 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year, showing a growth of 12.0%. Month-wise estimated foreign tourist arrivals to India for the period January-October, 2006 are given in the following table:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.